

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (MCHAB)
OCTOBER 15, 2004
MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Roger Volker, Mdiv, Chairperson
Susanne Magleby
Senator Maggie Carlton
Assemblywoman Genie Ohrenschall
Raquel Knecht, MA
Fran Courtney, RN for Donald Kwalick, MD, MPH
Michelle Kling, RN, MS
Jeffrey Wrightson, MD
T.J. (Terri) Rosenberg

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Terrence McGaw, MD, Vice-Chairperson
Beverly Neyland, MD

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Alex Haartz, Administrator, Nevada State Health Division (NSHD)
Judith Wright, Chief, Bureau of Family Health Services (BFHS)
Steve Kepp, Administrative Services Officer (ASO) I, BFHS
Tami Terstegee, Administrative Assistant, BFHS

OTHERS PRESENT

Robbin Palmer, PHD, Certified Genetic Counselor, Northern Nevada Genetic Counseling
Phil Nowak, Medicaid Managed Care and Nevada ✓ Check Up, Division of Health Care
Financing and Policy (DHCFP)
Laurie Olson, Management Analyst III, DHCFP
Cathie Shields, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)
Janice Vandenberg-Smith, Sunrise Hospital
Linda Yi, Director, University Medical Center (UMC)

CALL TO ORDER

Roger Volker called to order the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board (MCHAB) at **9:50 a.m.** at Washoe County District Health Department (WCDHD), Reno and Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS), Las Vegas. This was a videoconferenced public meeting and the public was invited to make comments. In accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law, this meeting was posted at the following locations: Bureau of Family Health Services (BFHS), Carson City; Kinhead Building, Carson City; Nevada State Library and Archives, Carson City; Washoe County District Health Department (WCDHD), Reno; Clark County Health District (CCHD), Las Vegas; Elko Nursing Office, Elko; Nevada Early Intervention Services, Las Vegas and on the Nevada State Health Division (NSHD) website at www.health2k.state.nv.us.

Introductions were made around the table.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2004.

Assemblywoman Genie Ohrenschall motioned to approve the minutes as written and Michelle Kling seconded. **MOTIONED APPROVED.**

HEALTH DIVISION REPORT

Roger Volker introduced Alex Haartz the new Administrator for NSHD. Mr. Haartz related his beginnings with the NSHD, which included reporting to the MCHAB. He stated he is looking forward to hearing what the Board's recommendations are with regards to legislative issues and policy matters that may come up during the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Haartz added by successfully addressing those issues with the MCHAB they can work towards bettering the maternal and child health (MCH) situation in Nevada. He concluded by thanking the MCHAB members for their volunteerism and work.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF

Mr. Volker stated he received a letter from Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley concerning issues about perinatal substance abuse and requested a response by the MCHAB regarding whether or not legislative action would be appropriate. He stated Assemblywoman Buckley raised an issue, which has been before this Board and before the Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention (PSAP) Subcommittee for a number of years. Mr. Volker explained there is activity and resources within the state concerning this issue. There are drug courts in our state. Judge Layman and Judge McGee and other persons in the judicial system have been working on this issue over the years. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration in Washington D.C. is currently conducting evaluation studies of drug courts and alternatives to incarceration for all persons including pregnant woman who may be using at that time. Here in Reno one of the extraordinary models called Lighthouse of the Sierras is a nationally recognized model for treatment focusing on pregnant and parenting women. It also is doing evaluating studies. Mr. Volker continued by saying since the 2005 Legislative session begins in February it would be appropriate to examine this issue and provide recommendations within a written response to Assemblywoman Buckley. He added it might be appropriate to move this issue to the agenda of the PSAP subcommittee also.

Senator Carlton stated she received Barry Lovgren's response to this letter and began making inquiries as to what is going on regarding this issue. She discovered it is coming from the Chief's and Sheriff's Association of Clark County. Senator Carlton said she has asked if a meeting could be arranged with the associations to discuss the issues from their side to ascertain a mutual direction before the start of legislature. Senator Carlton reported she chairs the PSAP subcommittee, which will meet on October 25, 2004 and will look to the subcommittee to make recommendations to the MCHAB at the December meeting. She added she has invited representatives from law enforcement and other concerned agencies to the PSAP meeting. MCHAB members offered suggestions and recommendations on how to proceed to the PSAP subcommittee members who were present. Mr. Volker directed the subcommittee staff to contact with Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Lighthouse of the Sierras, and appropriate staff within the counties to advise them discussions are underway on this subject. Senator Carlton noted in Assemblywoman Buckley's letter there is a two part discussion; the first part is where the unborn child is referenced and the second part is in reference to the delivery where the child is in need of protection. She believes these issues will have to be separated in discussions since the judge's response is focusing on the unborn child.

Senator Carlton moved to have the PSAP subcommittee investigate and report back to the Board on December 10, 2004 on the issues raised in the letter from Assemblywoman Buckley addressing judges and was seconded by TJ Rosenberg. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Mr. Volker directed staff to write a letter to Assemblywoman Buckley of the direction being taken on this issue and he would sign the letter on behalf of the Board.

EXPLANATION OF HEDIS (HEALTH PLAN EMPLOYER DATA AND INFORMATION SET).

Phil Nowak explained HEDIS is a standardized measurement and reporting tool used by managed care plans who are participants in and accredited by the National Committee of Quality Assurance. Mr. Nowak stated it is the most widely used performance measures program by managed care. It is important for any delivery system of healthcare to have benchmarks or standards in place to know how they are doing. The Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) is the contracted organization, which provides this for Medicaid. HSAG collects data from client audits from the two contracted health plans. They do comparisons of data by examining how membership data and enrollment data is handled and processed, how provider data is compiled, and then conduct medical reviews. When chart reviews of the samples are done, HSAG specifically looks at encounter claims and encounter data. Claims are examined particularly from the standpoint of providing services and increasing outreach while still providing a predictable cost effective program. Claims are a fourth of the data considered in standardized measures. The data is largely collected from the population served, which is a young population with significant number of pregnant moms and children. One of the measures involves access to prenatal and postpartum care, specifically looking at the weeks of pregnancy from the time of enrollment to managed care, which will show timely access to managed care. Another measure is children's access to primary care providers in terms of visitation and this information is segregated by age (i.e. well child to the first 15 months of life, well child for ages three to six years of life, well child immunization, mental health utilization and regular visits.) Mr. Nowak added this is the base line for this information. He continued by discussing the data sheets for Nevada ✓ Check Up and Medicaid. He noted there is a comparison included showing how Nevada compares to the national mean, which in this case the mean being the sum of all the managed care plans who are participating and subject to this kind of data collection.

Mr. Nowak suggested to the Board that he be given the opportunity to discuss this data further and more in depth at the next meeting. Mr. Volker agreed to have Mr. Nowak or one of his staff present at the December meeting for further discussions.

UPDATE ON THE MEDICAID MANAGED CARE AND NEVADA ✓ CHECK UP.

Mr. Nowak stated there has been progress in the conversion of the Medicaid MIS system and the issues that have occurred with the providers in the state. He elaborated by saying the processing of claims submitted in the recent past are very close to being considered in compliance with expectations. However, there are still issues continuing when it comes to dealing with the prior claims. There is still considerable work to be done across various provider groups especially in physicians groups. The real test as to how much progress has been made will be the outcome of certification, which is associated with the acceptance of the Federal funding.

Mr. Nowak continued by saying a visible part of this progress is the revamping of the Nevada ✓ Check Up paper application. It is now a client friendly application with a much cleaner appearance. He also noted the position responsible for the Covering Kids Grant coordination within Nevada ✓ Check Up is vacant.

Mr. Nowak reported a behavioral health stakeholders meeting had been conducted. He stated there was a very good turn out of providers and agencies that are concerned with behavioral health delivery. The next meeting will be a continuation of the first addressing issues that involve social service in Clark County and Washoe County. Both counties have at risk populations who are a part of their service mission and are also an area of concern for Medicaid and Nevada ✓

Check Up. Another initiative to be scheduled this fall is to convene a workshop/stakeholder meeting involving dental delivery. The concern here is the growth in population, particularly in Clark County and the needs to be addressed whether it is in managed care realm, Medicaid, or Nevada ✓ Check Up. The intent is to revisit where we have come from and determine how to move toward improving outcomes. This is at the very least a starting point and should include community practitioners, health centers, and the School of Dentistry along with any other interested parties. Because the end of the year is approaching, it is hoped to have the meeting scheduled prior to Thanksgiving.

Mr. Nowak stated the number of enrollees in Nevada Check Up as of October 2004 is 25, 327 which reflects the changes due to review of premium payments, re-determinations, total people enrolled and total number of people no longer enrolled.

BOARD REFLECTION ON WHAT THEY WANT TO DISCUSS WITH DR. CARLOS GARCIA, SUPERINTENDENT OF CLARK COUNTY SCHOOLS, AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AT THEIR NEXT MEETING.

Ms. Wright asked the Board to provide specific ideas for questions to start the conversation with the Superintendent and members of the School Board of Clark County. She explained this is an outgrowth of a report Kyle Devine presented last summer regarding “Sex Education” in schools and there had been some serious questions as to what is or isn’t happening in Clark County. Unfortunately, there has not been great success in contacting the Superintendent directly so the thought was to extend an invitation to him to attend a meeting. Ms. Wright asked the MCHAB members from Las Vegas if one of them would be willing to contact him personally to invite to the meeting. Senator Carlton said she would be more than happy to do this.

Discussion of what types of questions would be asked ensued. During this discussion it was determined it might be more beneficial to invite the Clark County staff who is in charge of sex education instruction in the schools instead of Dr. Garcia. However, the invitation would be sent through Dr. Gracia. Ms. Wright believes the School Board is reading the law one way where other school districts are reading it another. She added it would be beneficial to hear how they are interpreting the law. Mr. Volker suggested having a conversation with the staff person who is actually working with the Sex Education programs for the district and then prepare a response to Dr. Garcia thanking him for their progress or addressing the Board’s concerns. Discussion took place regarding the suggestion of reversing this action item by not inviting Dr. Garcia but inviting the appropriate person within the Clark County School District (CCSD) who does deal with this issue specifically.

Mr. Volker motioned to invite the senior staff person who manages this program at CCSD to present at the December meeting and then get the name of this person to Senator Carlton so she may personally invite them. Senator Carlton seconded the motion. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Ms. Wright will determine who the senior staff at CCSD is and create a new letter of invitation for Mr. Volker’s signature.

THE GOVERNOR’S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (GYAC) INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDER OF JUNE 1996 THAT ESTABLISHED THEM, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF.

Ms. Wright stated a copy of the executive order establishing the GYAC was included in the packets sent to each member of the Board. She drew their attention to Number 3, Administration, which states “The council shall be coordinated and facilitated by the Nevada State Health

Division, in addition, the Governor's Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board shall sit as a mentoring body for the council." Ms. Wright noted over the last few years this has not been done. She suggested, especially since GYAC members will be coming to discuss the Clark County sex education issue with this Board at the next meeting, it would be a good time to find out what other concerns the GYAC have. It would also be time to set up one-on-one mentoring to open the lines of communication.

Mr. Volker directed staff to place the GYAC on the next agenda so they may meet the members and provide them with a brief introduction to each MCHAB member and find out the GYAC's priorities and activities.

REPORT ON THE GENETICS TOWN HALLS, SPONSORED BY THE GENETICS & PUBLIC POLICY CENTER, JOHN HOPKINS.

Ms. Palmer stated there are governmental agencies that regulate the availability of drugs and medical devices for the American public. Genetic testing is not regulated. The Genetic and Public Policy Center, which is affiliated with John Hopkins University, has initiated this public discussion about the use of reproductive genetic testing in a project supported by the PEW Charitable Trust. Thus far, through self-regulation within laboratories, prenatal genetic testing has been reserved for fetuses that are at risk for serious genetic disorders such as muscular dystrophy. Increasingly, respective parents are taking advantage of what is called a prenatal genetic diagnosis. In prenatal genetic diagnosis, embryos are obtained by invitro fertilization where one cell from an early embryo can be removed for genetic testing. Then, embryos that do not have a particular genetic disorder can be implanted to achieve pregnancy. In the future, it is anticipated it will be technically possible to test embryos/fetuses for genetic traits such as eye color, enhanced athletic ability and I.Q. During the month of June, July, and August, The Genetic and Public Policy Center hosted a genetic town hall in six cities across the United States. These six cities were Sacramento, Nashville, Fort Worth, New York, Kalamazoo, and Seattle. Ms. Palmer attended the town hall in Sacramento. The town hall was free and open to the public. Each gathered a diverse cross section of citizens, community leaders, genetics professionals, and public policy makers to engage in in-depth discussions about the use of these technologies and to shape policies in reproductive genetic testing both locally and federally. In a three-hour presentation and discussion, participants viewed short and educational videos and then were queried on their views of acceptable uses of reproductive genetic testing and regulatory policy on these uses. The event focused on three areas: the ethics of reproductive genetic testing, the safety and accuracy of reproductive testing; and implications of this testing for families in society. Ms. Palmer stated it will be interesting to see what the Genetic and Public Policy Center reports regarding their data collection. She concluded by saying it is time the MCH block grant addresses and promotes prenatal genetic services in the state of Nevada.

Mr. Volker asked Dr. Palmer to produce a synopsis of the report for the MCHAB and Assemblywoman Genie Ohrenschall asked for a complete report be sent to her by email.

PRESENTATION ON THE BOARD'S ANNUAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND DIRECTION TO STAFF.

Ms. Wright stated the annual report denotes the Board's work during the current biennium and recommendations for the next biennium. Discussions on recommendations are typically done by late January in a legislative year so it will be ready for legislators to look at. Ms. Wright recommended changing the name of the report to the Biennium Report and Recommendations and add a section regarding the recommendations and accomplishments from the last report. She noted there was several significant accomplishments since the last report, such as

recommending the asset test be dropped, which was done. Ms. Wright discussed the different way priorities and recommendations have been reported. She provided a list of recommendations from the prior year as well as a list of issues discussed since the last report. Ms. Wright requested direction on how to format the report.

Mr. Volker noted it is significant when priorities are never really accomplished. He continued by saying it might be advantageous not to just find four new priorities when the existing priorities have not been totally achieved because they are so broad. Ms. Kling stated she liked the idea of adding the new section and promoted the changes.

The Board accepted Mr. Volker's suggestion to keep the same four priorities and Ms. Wright's suggestions regarding changing the report and asked to see a draft at the next meeting.

BOARD DISCUSSION OF STAFF REPORTS AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BFHS STAFF.

Ms. Wright stated the Child and Adolescent Health report is fairly comprehensive. She noted the program does have two new staff; Judy Martin who started with the Early Childhood Grant and Kelly Service who started with the Child and Adolescent Health program. Ms. Service is going to be one of the few in the nation looking at six to ten year olds. The Child and Adolescent program now covers children from birth to the age 21. The GYAC has nine new members and two returning members and as it should be, they represent all communities of the state. The Abstinence Only Program grant has been moved from the MCH Bureau to the Administration for Children and Families. There is no determination as to what this will mean to the grant or to BFHS. It is on a continuing resolution until March of 2005. Ms. Wright noted that both she and Mr. Devine have been attending stakeholder meetings on mental health hosted by Medicaid and these have proven to be very interesting. She stated the Safe Haven posters and materials have been sent out. It was suggested to post the focus groups on the website and this has been done. She added the Obstetrics (OB) program with the University Medical Center(UMC) has also been started. Ms. Wright reported the \$36,000 grant for putting images on the sides of buses in Reno and Las Vegas has been received. She commented that the PSAP subcommittee has an intergenerational workgroup going. Ms. Wright stated the Oral Health program has received the highest level of funding from Centers for Diseases and Preventions (CDC) grantees and there are reporting the program is doing really well. The funding is now over \$500,000. All Oral Health reports are on the website now and surveillance of oral health of seniors has been started. The surveillance has been challenging because the focus is on reaching all seniors, not just the ones in the nursing homes. Primary Care Development Center (PCDC) will be opening up J1 Visas again on November 1, 2004. Women's, Infants and Children Program (WIC) is progressing nicely. There are now 46,000 participants a month and on November 2 a meeting will be held to provide demonstrations of the new Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program. All MCHAB members are invited to attend this meeting. EBT will be rolled out in Las Vegas starting in January. More private agencies have been contracted to take over the day-to-day operations of WIC clinics. The Real Choices program still does not have a program manager but Ms. Wright should be receiving the eligibility list soon. The first meeting with the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Advisory Council is scheduled for October 27, 2004 and the needs assessment has started. In conclusion, Ms. Wright reported the Bureau of Early Intervention Services (BEIS) now has 254 employees.

Mr. Volker stated Nevada has received its first Health Communities Access Program award. This is a \$3,500,000 grant from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to do integrative case management and support specialty care access for populations in Washoe

County. Included in this funding is the integrated case management pilot project for pregnant women. A presentation on this pilot project was given to this Board which encouraged them to find funding. Over \$100,000 was set aside for this three year project, which began on September 1, 2004. Mr. Volker also stated Secretary Thompson announced an award of \$950,000 to Nevada health centers for the school based clinics, which were initiated and under the direction of the Clark County Health District (CCHD). Those clinics will now become federally qualified health center sites under Nevada Health Centers and therefore eligible for not only this money but for all the other benefits including malpractice insurance.

At the December 10, 2004 meeting, which will be start at 10:00 a.m., an agenda item will be in place to discuss 2005 meeting dates.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Palmer commented on the list of priorities for the MCHAB report 2004-2005. She stated genetics is revolutionizing medicine and believes it is time genetics services becomes a priority. She also noted she had previously asked that all genetic professionals in this state including perinatalologists, and neonatalologists, as well as the appropriate members of the state assembly and senate be involved in the needs assessment process.

Mr. Volker stated at the next meeting all board members should be available and prepared for a longer meeting as well as possibly having lunch with the GYAC members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **11:40 a.m.**